III

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" His Excellency the Governor having fixed this day for the election of a President, the ballot will now take place under the rules framed by the Government of India. I do not know if any hon. Members will feel surprised that contrary to the intention of the House when it framed the Standing Order regarding the election of the President the Chair is being taken now by the outgoing President. But as the rules more recently framed by the Government of India supersede our Standing Orders I take it, and I have taken some opinion in the matter which agrees with mine, that I have no option, much as it is against my will, in the matter of presiding to-day. I have to do all that the rules require me to do. 'On the date fixed for election the outgoing President shall fill the office of President; and if the Presidentship is vacant, the Deputy President or Chairman, as the case may be, shall read out to the Council the names of the members, etc.' "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Before the balloting takes place, may I ask a few questions, Sir? The rule made by the Government of India says that 'on the date fixed for election the outgoing President, or, if the office of President is vacant, the Deputy President or Chairman, as the case may be, shall read out to the Council the names of the members who have been duly nominated together with those of proposers and seconders, and if only one member has been so nominated, shall declare that member to be elected.' No names have been read now, and that is the first question.

" My second question is this. May I ask the hon. the Leader of the House as to whether the Government has given or proposes to give any lead in the matter or as to what their decision is? I am very anxious to know that, as I am sure, the House will be influenced by that."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am obliged to the hon. Member for pointing this out. The newly made Legislative Council rule 3 says that 'on the date fixed for election, the outgoing President or, if the office of President is vacant, the Deputy President or Chairman, as the case may be, shall read out to the Council the names of the members who have been duly nominated together with those of their proposers and seconders . . .' I have therefore to announce the names of the members who have been duly nominated for the post of President together with those of their proposers and seconders :—

Member nominated.	Proposers.	Seconders.
Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai.	Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar. ,, C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. ,, P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. ,, J. A. Saldanha ,, J. D. Samuel.	Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai. Mr. A. Murugappa Chetti. Mr. Cruz Fernandez. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian. Mr. R. Srinivasan.
Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.	Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.	Mr. U. Rama Rao.

" On the second question put by the hon. the Member for the University as to whether Government would give a lead, I would rule that, inasmuch as the voting is to be by secret ballot I cannot allow the Government or anybody else to give a lead " (hear, hear).

Hon. Members then proceeded to record their votes.

3rd February 1925]

After some discussion the following arrangement was adopted in regard to balloting. The Members on the right side of the hon. the President went to the cubicle provided on that side and were supplied with ballot papers by the Secretary. Each one of them then went into the cubicle and after recording his vote, deposited his voting paper in the ballot box placed at the entrance. After the Members on the right side had voted, the ballot box was removed to the left of the hon. the President where a similar cubicle was provided. The Members on the left side of the hon. the President then went into this cubicle and, after getting the voting papers from the Secretary and recording their votes in that cubicle, similarly deposited their voting papers in the ballot box. This function lasted till 12 noon when the box was sealed with a lock and placed before the President. He then ordered that the counting of the ballot papers should be proceeded with and appointed for the purpose two tellers—one the Leader of the House and another the Leader of the Opposition. The Secretary read out the name of the candidate for whom each vote was recorded and handed the voting paper to the Leader of the House who put it in one of the trays provided for the purpose. The votes were then counted and the result was announced by the Leader of the House. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avargal obtained 64 votes and M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu 42 votes. Four voting papers were found blank. The hon. the President intimated that he would intimate the result of the election to His Excellency the Governor for approval.

The next item of business was then proceeded with with the Deputy President in the chair.

IV

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the* 4*th December* 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of started questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed classes.

Report on the recent Kalpathy Car festival incident.

* 1 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have already called for the full report from the Subdivisional Magistrate of Palghat regarding the recent Kalpathy Car festival incident that took place on the 13th November 1924;